



LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PROGRAM 511-A-00-05-00250-00

**Integrating Governance, Participation and Sustainable
Economic Growth for Biodiversity Conservation in the
Amboró-Madidi Corridor**

**QUARTERLY REPORT
OCTOBER 1, 2005 - DECEMBER 31, 2005**

**Submitted to USAID
by
Conservation International - Bolivia**

February 7, 2006



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Introductory Note

This is the first quarterly report of the Bolivia Landscape Conservation Program/ Amboró-Madidi Corridor, covering the period October 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005.

Since this was the first of the project's projected sixteen quarters (October 2005 to September 2009) a strong thrust of our activities has centered on project planning and launch. However, we also began some technical implementation and have included progress to date as well key activities planned for next quarter.

The project's monitoring and evaluation system will be developed during the second quarter. The next quarterly report will include progress to date in each of the five objectives according to select indicators, to be established.

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I. Background

Conservation International (CI) is leading the development and implementation of the Bolivia Landscape Conservation Program/ Amboró-Madidi Corridor (AMC). This four-year project, funded jointly by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), CI, and project partners, seeks to conserve the high biodiversity values of the globally-significant AMC while promoting its sustainable development.

The AMC is part of the Tropical Andes Hotspot, a region stretching from western Venezuela to northern Chile and Argentina, including large portions of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. (See Annex 1) This Hotspot is the richest and most diverse region on Earth, containing about a sixth of all plant life in less than one percent of the world's land area. Extraordinarily high levels of species richness and endemism characterize the AMC. Few other areas in the world can compare with its biodiversity. For example, there are more than 5,000 plant species in Madidi National Park alone, which makes it the protected area with highest plant diversity on the continent.

Several urgent threats have or could have a negative impact on the sustainable development and conservation of ecosystems within the AMC, particularly unsustainable agricultural and natural resource use practices, insufficient and inadequate local participation in protected area and natural resource management, and weak democratic governance structures, policy frameworks, and citizen disenfranchisement.

To address these threats, the project is organized into five strategic objectives:

- 1) Strengthen participatory local governance, increase economic opportunities, and improve biodiversity conservation in the Apolobamba-Madidi-Pilón Lajas landscape.
- 2) Improve environmental and territorial management, promote sustainable development, and strengthen organizational capacities in the Amboró-Carrasco landscape.
- 3) Strengthen the capacity of central government institutions to develop policies and technical tools that promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable economic development in the AMC as well as nationally.
- 4) Promote knowledge management, learning and innovation on sustainable economic development and biodiversity conservation in the AMC.
- 5) Contribute to the development of knowledge, capabilities, attitudes and practices aimed at biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the AMC.

CI is carrying out this project in consortium with four Bolivian and international non-governmental organizations: Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza (FAN, or the Friends of Nature Foundation), the Federación de Asociaciones Municipales (FAM, or the Federation of Municipal Associations), La Asociación Boliviana para la Conservación (TRÓPICO, or the Bolivian Conservation Association), and Pact, Inc. Each partner receives a sub-award for the implementation of their work toward the project objectives. CI administers these sub-awards. The CI-FAN-FAM-TRÓPICO-Pact consortium is a unique strategic alliance that takes advantage of each partner's distinct and complementary capacities. CI has worldwide experience in biodiversity conservation, the implementation of conservation corridors, and more than 12 years working in the AMC; FAN has scientific and technical capacities to develop ecoregional planning and 15 years of experience in the Amboró-Carrasco landscape; FAM represents Bolivia's municipal associations and promotes the improvement of municipal capacities; TRÓPICO has implemented more than 60 projects and programs in several regions of Bolivia; and Pact, Inc. is a global leader in strengthening the capacity of grassroots organizations, coalitions and networks, and promoting knowledge management.

II. Quarterly Review/Executive Summary

The project got off to a rapid, effective start. In addition to initiating planning, logistical, and launch processes, CI and consortium partners got several technical activities up and running in the first quarter. Highlights of the quarter include:

Signed Cooperative Agreement and Staffing Up: The Cooperative Agreement was signed on September 23, 2005 between USAID and CI, and the project officially began with the arrival of the Project General Manager on October 4. By the end of the first quarter, approximately 60 percent of permanent project staff (and 80 percent of senior staff) were in place.

Project Planning: The first quarter was marked by a thorough process of workshops, technical meetings, and field visits aimed at a planning architecture that links the five consortium partners into a fluid and logical plan. The resulting draft logical framework and FY2006 annual operating plan were presented to USAID in early December. Adjustment to and finalization of these planning tools in coordination with USAID are expected next quarter.

Logistical Start-Up: CI secured and outfitted a new annex to its La Paz office to house project staff. Pact is also sharing that space. CI and FAN have conducted assessments and established plans for use of currently existing field offices in the two project landscapes, and vital equipment has been purchased. Project staff attended a meeting on USAID Branding and Marking policies and these policies are currently being implemented, with the Branding and Marking Strategy to be presented to USAID in early 2006.

Presentation of Project: Three project presentation materials were produced during the quarter: a full-color pamphlet describing the program (See Annex 2) , a project presentation folder, and an official Power Point visual presentation. CI and partners presented the project to approximately twenty external organizations including NGOs, government agencies, municipal associations, and local governments. Support for the project goals and objectives was unanimous.

Initial Implementation: Complementing planning and launch process activities, technical implementation began in several program objectives. The activities are detailed in the next section, and include: land use planning with indigenous communities, participation in a municipal annual operational planning exercise in the Amboró buffer zone, leadership on organizing a workshop to monitor the effectiveness of protected areas and another to develop a national ecotourism strategy, and mapping mechanisms (media such as Redesma, networks, and working groups) that promote or spread best practices in municipal and indigenous lands conservation.

III. Presentation by Program Objectives

Objective 1: Strengthen participatory local governance, increase economic opportunities, and improve biodiversity conservation in the Apolobamba-Madidi-Pilón Lajas landscape.

Highlights

a) Planning and Launch Process

- Completion of logical framework matrix and operative planning of Objective 1 and participation in workshops. These workshops were attended by all five consortium partners and included a rigorous analysis of the problems and proposed solutions (as presented in the project proposal), the crafting of an overall logical framework, and the development of an annual operating plan for 2006 based on that framework.
- Participation in meetings to present the project to external organizations such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and The Democratic Development and Citizen Participation III project (DDPC III) in order to coordinate activities.
- Meetings with city councilmen of the municipalities of San Buenaventura, Rurrenabaque and the mayor of Apolo.
- Meetings with the Federation of Municipal Associations (FAM) and municipal associations of La Paz, Santa Cruz and Cochabamba.

b) Implementation

- *Municipal Agreements*: In order to establish the rules of the game with landscape municipalities, a standard agreement has been drawn up. This document is already under review in the municipalities of San Buenaventura and Ixiamas by their respective municipal councils and mayors. The agreement will allow project consortium partners and municipalities to cooperate in all aspects of the project under a clearly defined framework. In the following quarter this agreement will be refined and standardized for both landscapes and will serve as the foundation to begin operative activities.
- *Workshop to share best practices on Planes Municipal de Ordenamiento Territorial (PMOTs, or Municipal Territorial Zoning Plans)*: Progress has been made in the identification of various experiences in the development of "conservation PMOTs." These selected experiences will serve as the foundation to define criteria for project implementation. To this end, a workshop to exchange experiences will be held in March.

- *Land Use Planning with San José de Uchupiamonas* : Officials from CI, and the San Jose de Uchupiamonas TCO (*tierras comunales de origen*, roughly the Bolivian equivalent of U.S. Indian Reservations, and hereafter referred to as “indigenous lands”) held a meeting to establish preliminary agreements regarding zoning and strategy development for the San José de Uchupiamonas indigenous lands. The meeting laid the groundwork for FY 2006 project activities.
- *Creation of the bi-municipal protected area of Santa Rosa and Reyes*: Agreements have been signed for the creation of a municipal protected area in Reyes and the consolidation for the protected area in Santa Rosa. These are significant steps toward enhancing municipal awareness of and commitment toward conservation in the Madidi-Pilón Lajas-Apolobamba landscape.

Problems/Limitations

None.

Recommendations

None.

Key Activities Planned for Next Quarter

- Presentation of the project to local stakeholders of priority municipalities in the landscape and the signing of inter-institutional agreements.
- Visit and presentation of the Pact team to local stakeholders in the landscape.
- Participation in technical workshops convened by project management.
- Selection and hiring of personnel for the development of activities in the landscape.
- Conceptualization of the work and execution of the 2006 annual operating plan of objective 2, including detailed internal planning with technicians from landscape 1.
- Support for the acquisition of goods, equipment and materials necessary for the project.
- Preparation and execution of exchange workshop of conservation PMOTs.
- Operative coordination with the environmental education component.

Indicators

To be included in second quarterly report.

Objective 2: Improve environmental and territorial management, promote sustainable development, and strengthen organizational capacities in the Amboró-Carrasco landscape.

Highlights

a) Planning and Launch Process

- Process of incorporation of the Bolivia Landscape Conservation Program/AMC in FAN's functional structure; it is housed in the Department of Conservation/Territorial Management Unit.
- Training of the newly hired coordinator of the Amboró-Carrasco landscape in the technical norms and financial and administrative aspects of FAN.
- Participation of the coordinator of the Amboró-Carrasco landscape in consortium meetings for the organization of work within the Landscape Conservation Program.
- Support to the Project General Manager in the project's strategic and operative planning and participation in workshops to develop and refine the logical framework and annual operating plan.
- Development of the budget for the four years of objective 2, in coordination with the project executive direction and the administration of FAN, and working out standard number amounts for the preparation of the budget (budgets by products).
- Coordination with the project executive direction and administration of FAN in order to make appropriate adjustments to the sub-agreement between CI and FAN.
- Preparation of terms of references for personnel who will be contracted for the operative work in the municipalities, coordinated with a FAN staff member.

b) Implementation

- Participation in meetings to present the PCP-AMC to external organizations (e.g. TNC, DDPC III) for the coordination of common activities. The meetings were fruitful and all external actors agreed to support the plan of work.
- Drawing up of inter-institutional agreements in order to be signed by the nine municipalities in the area of influence of the Amboró Protected Area (APA).
- Presentation of the project to mayors of the municipalities of Comarapa, Pampa Grande, Mairana and Samaipata. These officials were highly supportive, and agreed to begin the process of developing framework agreements and begin work.

- Participation in the preparation of the Annual Operating Plan 2006 (DDPC Summit 3) of the municipality of Samaipata. Landscapes Project participants participated as observers in order to listen and begin to develop trust and cooperation.
- Preparation of information in order to familiarize the municipalities and FAN staff with the project.
- Site visits to projects in the landscape (La Yunga in Mairana and La Yunga Verde in Comarapa) in order to get to know experiences that may be replicable in other municipalities in the area of influence of APA. These visits were useful toward the development of the economic activities to be supported by the project, including ecotourism.

Problems/Limitations

None.

Recommendations

None.

Key Activities Planned for Next Quarter

- Presentation of the project to local stakeholders of the four landscape model municipalities and signing of inter-institutional agreements for their implementation.
- Visit and presentation of the project to the mayors of the municipalities of Yapacani, San Carlos, Buena Vista, El Torno and Porongo and the signing of inter-institutional agreements for their implementation.
- Participation in technical workshops convened by project management.
- Launching of job announcements, selection process, contracting of personnel who will work in the municipalities.
- Conceptualization of work and execution of the 2006 POA of objective 2.
- Support for the acquisition of goods, equipment and materials necessary to carry out the project.
- Coordination meeting with the director of the Amboró Protected Area and signing of agreement in order to carry out activities.

Indicators

To be included in second quarterly report.

Objective 3: Strengthen the capacity of central government institutions to develop policies and technical tools that promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable economic development in the AMC as well as nationally.

Highlights

a) Planning and Launch Process

- Participation in planning and project launch workshops in order to link this objective into a fluid and logical plan coordinated synergetically with the five consortium partners.

b) Implementation

- The project provided partial funding and technical assistance in planning a workshop to monitor the effectiveness of protected areas to be held in the coming quarter.
- Initial meetings with Bolivia's Office on Climate Change regarding synergies with forest conservation in the AMC.
- The project took a lead role in a planning meeting of the National Ecotourism Committee. The meeting, which took place on the Island of the Sun on Lake Titicaca, included representatives from the non-profit, government, and private sectors (a total of sixteen participants). The key outcome was defining general areas of actions and a draft agenda for 2006.

Problems/Limitations

This objective strongly depends upon the consolidation of the new government, since the project will work in alliance with state entities in charge of protected areas, territorial land use planning, tourism and biodiversity. With the election of Movement Toward Socialism candidate, Evo Morales, to the presidency by a historically unprecedented margin, these entities are currently being restructured and large changes are expected that will lead to the appointment of new directors and vice ministers. It is as of yet unknown how these changes and new leaders will impact the project.

Recommendations

Given the depth of the political changes in Bolivia, it was decided to wait for the launching of a forthcoming law which will reorganize the executive branch of government—expected to be passed in early February— before beginning key activities such as the map of stakeholders and the establishment of specific agreements with the state sector. Adaptive management will be employed to

assess the new power structure and construct strategic alliances with appropriate state entities. In this process this objective's specific activities will be refined in a participatory manner.

Key Activities Planned for Next Quarter

- Meeting with key stakeholders in the environmental sector in order to define mechanisms of collaboration and common activities regarding Bolivia's National Constituent Assembly and its implications.
- Map of relevant stakeholders for the policy objective once the new government is established.
- Preparation of agreements with the state institutions involved (General Directorate of Biodiversity, Vice-Ministry of Tourism, and protected areas)
- An operative plan for the National Ecotourism Committee will be defined in February.
- The extent of the activities and results of this objective will be refined according to the outcome of negotiations and alliances.

Indicators

To be included in second quarterly report.

Objective 4: *Promote knowledge management, learning and innovation on sustainable economic development and biodiversity conservation in the AMC.*

Highlights

- a) Planning and Launch Process
 - Transferring capacities to the Landscape Conservation Program from Pact programs in Zambia, Washington, and Kenya with similar characteristics. Pact convened meetings with its technical staff from these offices to determine which design elements and technical pieces lent themselves to adaptation and use in the project.
 - Using all of the inputs gathered from Pact's other projects, the objective 4 project strategy was designed with strong links to the other project objectives, particularly as they relate to systematization, sharing, and learning, both in project application and between consortium partners. For example, objective 4 was interwoven directly with objective 1—the two program objectives building upon one another to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of project municipalities and indigenous lands while reinforcing their ability to collaborate learn and share and continually improve their practice.

- Finalization of the objective 4 work plan and logical framework
- From the objective 4 role of promoting internal team learning and sharing, Pact facilitated a design adjustment to objectives 1 & 3, to ensure that their activities were properly linked to project outcomes and to the other objectives.

b) Implementation

- Determined staffing needs and identified a Project Coordinator for Pact's roles in objective 1 and 4.
- Convened meetings with Redesma, SNV, DFID and other potential project collaborators to generate interest in contributing to sharing and learning with the project. These entities expressed high interest in collaborating with the project, and could potentially shape it positively through technical cooperation and counterpart funding, helping the project achieve greater reach and scope.

Key activities planned for the next quarter

- Design and facilitation of a project launch workshop to make clear technical links between the 5 objectives; determine a life-of-project, logical project phasing, and critical path; and determination of learning and sharing objectives between consortium partners.
- Research on best practices in local government conservation efforts regionally (Latin America) as well as begin to document local best practices within the AMC.
- Map and contact mechanisms (media such as Redesma, networks, working groups, etc.) that promote or spread best practices in municipal and indigenous lands conservation. Design ways to make these mechanisms more available to local actors (e.g. different formats, looking for ways to link the local context better).
- Support in finalizing the design of the project M & E system.
- Create a project model for learning and sharing, fully linked to the project M & E system.
- Facilitate project meetings as needed.

Indicators

To be included in second quarterly report.

Objective 5: Contribute to the development of knowledge, capabilities, attitudes and practices aimed at biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the AMC.

Highlights

a) Planning and Launch Process

- Meetings were held with the USAID/Bolivia environmental team toward reformulating objective 5. Because of USAID/Washington requirements that the objective's focus be formal education, elements involving mass communication were removed from the project design. These meetings, along with overall planning and launch process activities, led to a revised technical structure for this objective (sent to USAID in December) and a "modification of assistance" addendum to the Cooperative Agreement, expected to be signed by USAID and CI in January 2006.
- In order to finalize the proposal of objective 5 meetings were held between Conservation International and TRÓPICO.
- TRÓPICO held internal meetings in order to firm up the proposal of activities for environmental education.

b) Implementation

- Implementation of this objective will begin in the second quarter.

Problems/Limitations

The project's formal education coordinator for objective 5 accepted a last-minute position in the Bolivian government, leaving this area short-staffed.

Recommendations

We expect to fill the formal education post early next quarter, drawing from a pool of highly qualified education officials transitioning out of Ministry of Education posts as the new government assumes power.

Key activities planned for the next quarter

- Establish contacts and hold meetings with government authorities in education.
- Begin the proposal for the insertion of the conservation theme into the curriculum of secondary schools.

- Identification of intervention areas for Nucleus Education Projects, Green Tent and Eco-Clubs.
- Signing of agreements with municipalities, the state-level education department, SEDUCAS, and other entities necessary to establish Nucleus Education Projects and Eco-Clubs.
- Begin of design process for on-the-job teacher training.
- Participatory planning of activities for Green Tent and Eco-Clubs.
- Workshops with Interpretation Centers and the Kusillo Museum for data collection and participatory diagnostics.

Indicators

To be included in second quarterly report.

IV. Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMC: Amboró-Madidi Corridor

APA: Amboró Protected Area

CI: Conservation International

DDPC III: *Desarrollo Democrático Participación Ciudadana III* (Democratic Development and Citizen Participation III)

DFID: Department for International Development (UK)

DGB: *Dirección de Biodiversidad* (Bolivian Biodiversity Directorate)

FAM: *Federación de Asociaciones Municipales* (Federation of Municipal Associations)

FAN: *Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza* (Friends of Nature Foundation)

NGO: Non-governmental Organization

PMOT: *Plan Municipal de Ordenamiento Territorial* (Municipal Territorial Zoning Plan)

SEDUCAS: Bolivian State-Level Education Department Departments

SNV: Netherlands Development Organization

TCO: *Tierras Comunales de Origen* (Indigenous Lands)

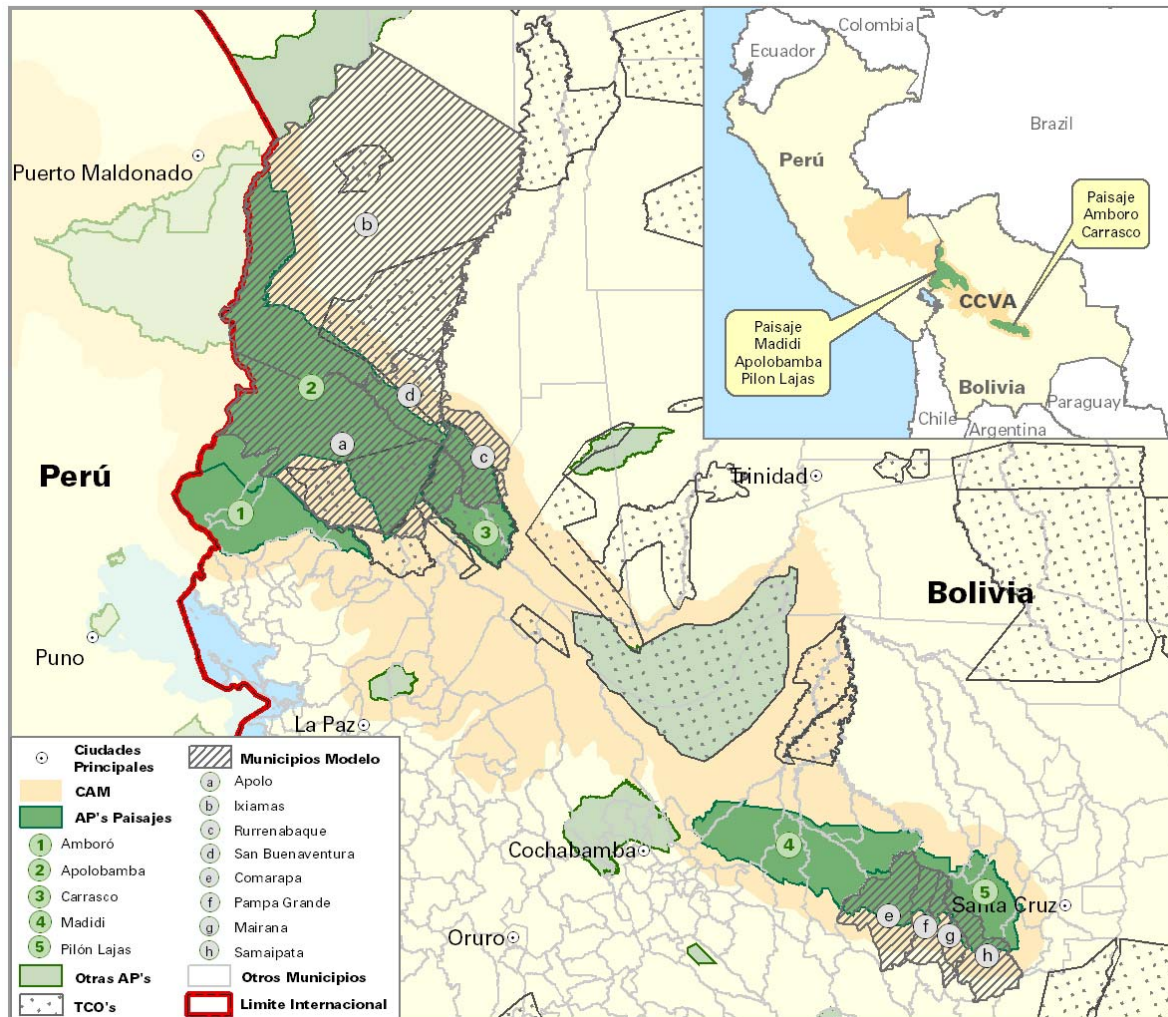
TNC: The Nature Conservancy

TRÓPICO: *Asociación Boliviana para la Conservación*

USAID: United States Agency for International Development

V. Annexes

Annex 1: Map of Operational Area: Amboró-Madidi Corridor



Annex 2: Presentational Pamphlet (December 2005)

CI, FAN, PACT, TRÓPICO Y FAM

UNA ALIANZA ESTRATÉGICA ÚNICA PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE PAISAJES Y EL DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE



Complementamos nuestras diferentes capacidades y experiencias

- **Conservación Internacional (CI):** líder en conservación de la biodiversidad e implementación de corredores de conservación a través de alianzas estratégicas.
- **Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza (FAN):** capacidad científica y técnica para la planificación y gestión de la conservación.
- **Federación de Asociaciones Municipales (FAM):** representa a los gobiernos municipales del país y promueve el mejoramiento de capacidades de todos los municipios de Bolivia.
- **Trópico:** fortalecimiento de capacidades para la autogestión local, con énfasis en la temática indígena y educación alternativa para la conservación.
- **Pact:** gestión del conocimiento y fortalecimiento de capacidades de organizaciones de base.

GUÍAS DE NUESTRO ACCIONAR

Creemos firmemente que nuestro trabajo tendrá éxito sólo si se fundamenta en el respeto, la inclusión social y la equidad de género. Trabajamos con una visión de sostenibilidad y por ello consideramos importante la formación de capacidades locales y el fortalecimiento institucional. Todos nuestros emprendimientos promueven la participación y complementariedad entre organizaciones de base, municipios, comunidades, empresas y ONGs.



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Fotografías: FAN, Conservación Internacional, Diseño: Molina & Asociados



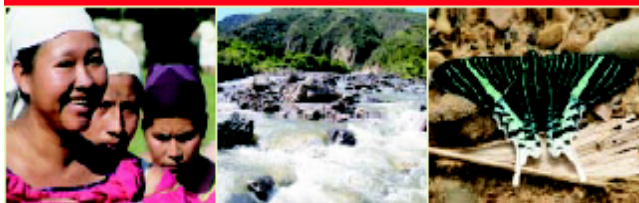
PROGRAMA DE CONSERVACIÓN DE PAISAJES



Integrando gobernabilidad, participación, planificación y desarrollo de capacidades locales para el crecimiento económico sostenible y la conservación de la biodiversidad en el Corredor Amboró - Madidi



EL IMPACTO BUSCADO

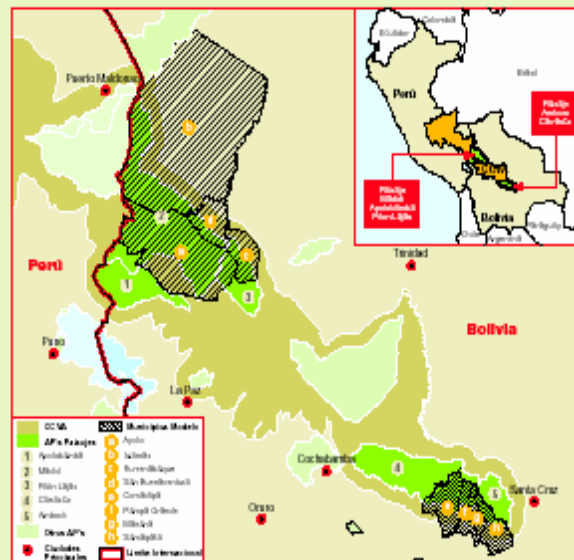


El Programa de Conservación de Paisajes se desarrolla en el Corredor Amboró – Madidi (CAM). Enfocamos nuestro trabajo en dos paisajes: Madidi – Pílon Lajas – Apolobamba y Amboró – Carrasco.

El Programa de Conservación de Paisajes pretende reducir, en los próximos cuatro años, las amenazas a la conservación de la biodiversidad del CAM y al mismo tiempo contribuir a:

- Fortalecer la gobernabilidad local participativa y aumentar las oportunidades económicas sostenibles, en base al manejo ambiental y territorial, en municipios de ambos paisajes.
- Fortalecer las capacidades de las instituciones del gobierno central para desarrollar políticas y herramientas técnicas que promuevan la conservación de la biodiversidad y el desarrollo económico sostenible en el CAM así como también a nivel nacional.
- Promover el manejo del conocimiento, el aprendizaje y la innovación sobre el desarrollo económico sostenible y la conservación de la biodiversidad en el CAM.
- Desarrollar conocimientos, capacidades, actitudes favorables y prácticas orientadas a la conservación de la biodiversidad y el uso sostenible de los recursos naturales en el CAM.

CORREDOR AMBORÓ - MADIDI (CAM)



El CAM es la parte boliviana del Corredor de Conservación Vilcabamba – Amboró, que incluye a las ecoregiones de más alto valor en biodiversidad para Bolivia y que presenta importantes retos para el desarrollo del país.

Cubre un área aproximada de 139.000 hectáreas, lo que representa el 12% del territorio boliviano; se ubica en cuatro departamentos: La Paz, Beni, Cochabamba, y Santa Cruz e incluye a 78 municipios y 12 Tierras Comunitarias de Origen (TCOs).

EL VALOR DEL CAM

- El CAM comprende cuatro ecoregiones mayores:
 - los yungas de Bolivia en su integridad
 - la parte sur de los bosques húmedos del sudoeste amazónico
 - pequeñas áreas de la puna húmeda de los Andes centrales
 - pequeñas áreas de los bosques montanos secos de Bolivia.

- El CAM es hogar de miles de especies de animales y plantas y presenta extraordinarios niveles de endemismo. Sólo en el Madidi se encuentra la mayor cantidad de especies plantas superiores del continente (4.000) y la mayor cantidad de especies de aves del mundo (1.000). En el Amboró están el 5% de todas las orquídeas conocidas del mundo.
- Debido a la presencia de bloques de bosque montano en buen estado de conservación, el CAM cumple un rol fundamental en la regulación hidrológica a nivel regional al alojar sistemas hidrográficos importantes, cabeceras de cuencas y zonas de alta pluviosidad.
- Culturalmente, el CAM es igualmente diverso, en él habitan nueve de los 35 grupos étnicos de Bolivia, albergando a casi medio millón de habitantes.
- Socioeconómicamente, juega un papel importante; en el CAM se encuentran áreas agrícolas, forestales, mineras e hidrocarbúrriferas y por él pasa la principal carretera que vincula a las ciudades más pobladas de Bolivia.

LOS RETOS QUE PRESENTA

- Los habitantes del CAM presentan un alto nivel de pobreza y un bajo índice de desarrollo humano.
- Las prácticas de agricultura y aprovechamiento forestal generalmente no son planificadas ni sostenibles.
- Existe una inadecuada e insuficiente participación local en el manejo de las áreas protegidas y los recursos naturales.
- Las estructuras de gobernabilidad son débiles y el marco político está desarticulado.
- Hasta ahora, el desarrollo de infraestructura caminera, de minería e hidrocarburos dentro del CAM no responde a una planificación estratégica, a largo plazo, y no se han incluido en este desarrollo medidas de mitigación ambiental.

